

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6447
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSYMADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5501

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT CRISIS: SOCIALISTS TAKE HARD LINE

REF: LISBON 5465

BEGIN SUMMARY: MARIO SOARES HAS ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF
THREE CDS MINISTERS, BUT THE SOARES GOVERNMENT WILL NOT RESIGN
UNLESS ASKED BY PRESIDENT EANES. THE SOCIALIST PARTY DIRECTIVE
COMMITTEE RESPONDED SHARPLY TO THE RESIGNATION OF THREE CDS
MINISTERS BY REAFFIRMING PS SUPPORT FOR MARIO SOARES AND HIS GOVERN-
MENT. THE SOCIALISTS AND CENTER DEMOCRATS ACCUSED EACH
OTHER OF BREAKING THEIR AGREEMENT. PS INSIDER RUI MATEUS
TOLD US EMOTIONS WERE TOO HIGH FOR ANY CONCILIATION IN THE
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NEXT FEW WEEKS. PRESIDENT EANES IS TO MEET SEPARATELY
JULY 25 WITH SOARES AND CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL.
END SUMMARY.

1. THREE MINISTERS RESIGN: MARIO SOARES ON JULY 24 ACCEPTED
THE RESIGNATIONS OF THE THREE CDS MINISTERS FOR COMMERCE
BASILIO HORTA, FOREIGN AFFAIRS SA MACHADO, AND ADMINISTRA-

TIVE REFORM RUI PENA (REFTEL). THE RESIGNATIONS ARE NOT EFFECTIVE UNTIL ACCEPTED BY EANES. THE RESIGNATIONS OF THE PS, CDS, AND INDEPENDENT STATE SECRETARIES SERVING IN THE THREE AFFECTED MINISTRIES AUTOMATICALLY FOLLOWED THE RESIGNATION OF THE THREE MINISTERS. BUT, CDS STATE SECRETARIES SERVING IN OTHER MINISTRIES DID NOT RESIGN IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP OPEN PROSPECTS FOR CONCILIATION.

2. SOCIALISTS TAKE HARD LINE: SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER MANUEL ALEGRE ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING THE JULY 24 PS DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RESIGNED AND WOULD AWAIT A DECISION BY PRESIDENT RAMALHO EANES ON THE GOVERNMENT'S FATE. THE DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- THE PS REMAINS FAITHFUL TO ITS ACCORD WITH THE CDS, BUT WILL NOT YIELD TO ULTIMATUMS. THE CDS POSITION IS IN EFFECT A DENUNCIATION OF THE PS-CDS ACCORD.
- THE PS DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER.
- THE PS REJECTS THE POSSIBILITY OF A "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL SALVATION" WITH SA CARNEIRO "WHOSE DESTABILIZING AND IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR IS WELL-KNOWN."
- THERE WILL NEVER BE A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE PRIOR AGREEMENT OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
- THE PS NATIONAL COMMITTEE IS CALLED ON TO MEET TO TAKE FURTHER DECISIONS.

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3. HOW THE SOCIALISTS SEE IT: PS SECRETARIAT MEMBER RUI MATEUS, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, TOLD LABATT JULY 25 THE SOCIALISTS WERE ANGRY AND NO CONCILIATION WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR 3-4 WEEKS. ALTHOUGH HE HELD OUT SOME HOPE FOR A NEW PS-CDS GOVERNMENT. HE CONCEDED THAT A PS MINORITY GOVERNMENT WAS NOT IN THE CARDS, ALTHOUGH THE SOARES GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE AS A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT INTO THE FALL.

4. CDS REACTION: THE CENTER DEMOCRATS REACTED SHARPLY TO THE SOCIALIST PARTY STATEMENT. CDS VICE PRESIDENT AMARO DA COSTA JULY 25 CALLED THE PS DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE A DENUNCIATION OF THE PS-CDS ACCORD. COSTA SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE CDS STATE SECRETARIES TO REMAIN IN GOVERNMENT IN LIGHT OF THE SOCIALIST POSITION. IN THE PARTY'S FIRST OFFICIAL REACTION JULY 25, THE CDS EXPRESSED HOPE TO REOPEN THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

5. COMMENT: THE TOUGH SOCIALIST POSITION BRINGS HOME THE FACT THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE PRESIDENT, THE PSD, THE CDS, OR ANYONE ELSE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE

AGREEMENT OF THE SOCIALISTS AND THEIR 102 ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES.
EANES HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION OF HOW HE WILL
ACT, BUT WILL MEET SEPRATELY JULY 25 WITH SOARES AND CDS
PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL.
BLOOMFIELD

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